

 **RUSKIN**  
A PRIORY ACADEMY  
**ACADEMY NEWSLETTER**

Autumn 2019 Community and SMSC

## A message from the Headteacher...

A very warm welcome to our first newsletter of academic year 2019/20. The new Year 7 cohort have only been with us a few weeks, but, as ever, they have quickly settled into life at Ruskin and are engaging with all aspects of academy life. I recently asked a group of Year 7 students what they were enjoying most about Ruskin, and overwhelmingly they spoke about all of the opportunities they had on offer; from sports to the arts, learning a musical instrument to Science clubs - they were genuinely relishing every aspect of our extended curriculum. The one issue that they did mention was lunchtime queues; there are always some teething problems at the start of the year (and this year has been no exception), but I do agree with our students. So, I am pleased to say that we are looking to increase our catering facilities with the arrival of a new food outlet on site, which will be operational sometime after Christmas.

We are also investing in our upper school students, with the development and expansion of the learning resource areas in the Sixth Form, increasing IT provision substantially and developing a high quality library, aiming at augmenting and extending academic study. This will be overseen by our new academic mentor, who is joining the Sixth Form team.

As ever, we expect a busy, productive and fulfilling term when we return. But as we approach winter, I would like to take this opportunity to ask parents and carers to support us in instilling the importance of road safety on the way to and from the academy, particularly those who bike. We will be following this up in school time, but we do appreciate the partnership between home and the academy, especially regarding fundamental safety messages.

Many thanks for your continued support of the academy; have a restful half term and I look forward to welcoming you into the academy during events throughout the year. Ms R Wyles

## Eliasson's Contemporary World View: Tate Modern



GCSE Art students had an entertaining visit to the Tate Modern for a fully immersive and interactive exhibition by Dutch artist Olafur Eliasson. This invaluable experience exposed students to Eliasson's contemporary, colourful and highly conceptual pieces, focussed on nature, geometry and how, as a viewer, we perceive, feel about and shape the world around us. Students also engaged with the work of other world renowned modern artists throughout the rest of the gallery, to help inform and develop their own styles and ideas in their coursework and exam prep. These included original pieces by Pop Artists Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein as well as Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse and Wassily Kandinsky.



Don't forget to follow us on Twitter and Facebook for up-to-date news and events!

Twitter: @prioryruskin Facebook: The Priory Ruskin Academy



# SAVE THE DATE: YEAR 11 PROM - 26th JUNE 2020

## Key Stage 5 Scientists Attend Isaac Newton Lecture 2019



As part of Ruskin's STEM programme the Key Stage 5 Physicists and Chemists attended this year's Isaac Newton Lecture held at RAF Cranwell. Mike Lawton, CEO of Oxford Space Systems, delivered an inspirational lecture on progressive versus disruptive development techniques within the aerospace industry. His team have utilised new material technologies and origami to allow large space communication arrays to be stored and deployed from increasingly small satellites and space vehicles. It was agreed the experience was very positive among our young scientists, and gave a glimpse into possible future fields for them to aim for post higher education.



## Students Work Together to Host Successful Community Event



A lovely news story which took place just after we published the Summer newsletter in July but which we wanted to share... Residents from Avery Lodge care home and service users from Fairview Farm were invited to the academy in July to enjoy an afternoon with some of Ruskin's students. Students taking GCSE Hospitality spent the morning preparing and cooking some lovely food with Mr Esam for our guests to enjoy, whilst GCSE Health and Social Care students then sat with the guests, chatting to them and enjoying an afternoon of varied entertainment. There was some beautiful ballet dancing performed by two students doing GCSE Performing Arts and a 'Thriller' dance performed by a very talented Year 7 student. A Sixth Form student then compered a game of 'Bingo' for all the service users, diligently helped by our students, and various prizes were won. Everyone had a lovely afternoon and this cross-department show was a huge success. A Christmas community event is already planned for December so we look forward to sharing news of this event in the next newsletter.

# Guide Dog Experience Highlights Charity's Work

On Monday 16th September Ruskin welcomed Bryan and Barclay to the academy to highlight to students the work our fundraising for the Guide Dogs supports. Bryan lost his sight when he was 11 years old but it was not until he was in his 40s that he got his first guide dog. The dogs he has had have transformed his life – making him feel safer, enabling him to get out and about and providing wonderful companionship.

Barclay is 6. He demonstrated his exceptional training and calm, intelligent and thoughtful nature throughout talks and demonstrations but don't be fooled... Bryan informed us that when Barclay's lead is off and he knows he's 'off duty' he's apparently quite loopy! Barclay proved to be an incredibly popular guest and had a queue of students and staff waiting to pet him at break time. Thank you so

much to Bryan, Barclay and Guide Dogs for coming in and giving students first hand insight into the challenges of being visually impaired and the wonderful work Guide Dogs do to ensure people maintain independence.



## Reading Week - Term 1 2019

In October students took part in the first 'Reading Week' of the academic year. For Year 7 students this was the first Reading Week they have experienced. Reading is of central importance at Ruskin – we know it supports learning across the curriculum as well as expanding vocabulary and reducing stress. Therefore Reading Week, where students read for the first 10 minutes of every lesson, provides our young people

with a chance to really engage with reading for pleasure...as well as an opportunity to gain house points!

For the first time, the academy organised cross year group reading sessions. Year 10 Health and Social Care students attended Year 7 English lessons and read to students for 30 minutes. It was a fantastic development opportunity for Year 10s and took real confidence. Year 7

students behaved impeccably as the older students read aloud from 'Midnight Gang' by David Walliams.

It was a great success and Mrs Geeson is now hoping to take the Year 10 students out to a local nursery so they can read to the children there as part of our next Reading Week activities.

Be prepared...our next Reading Week is taking place w/c 4th November.

## Students Attend Oxbridge Workshops in Preparation for Application Process

On 16th October ten Year 12 students had the opportunity to attend a workshop at Carre's Grammar school, run by Christ's College Cambridge and Lincoln College Oxford. Students were introduced to the Oxbridge colleges and what they can offer and the speakers endeavoured to break down some of the barriers that might stand in the

way of students applying. The sessions also included detailed advice and guidance on how to make a competitive application to highly-selective universities, such as Oxbridge and the Russell Group.

Three Year 13 students also attended a separate workshop on applications and interviews. This explained how to prepare for the latter part of

the admissions process and went through the kinds of questions and tasks that are used in interviews.



## Year 13 Reward Trip



On 20th September, following a successful Year 12 and summer examinations, over fifty Year 13 students went on a reward trip to Alton Towers. Despite being the oldest year group at the academy, students demonstrated you can never be too old for a theme park! Students found the day to be an excellent bonding experience and gave them chance to relax and have fun before resuming the important hard work ahead of them as they commence their final year at the academy.

## Ruskin's Commitment To Equality Recognised



We are delighted to announce that Ruskin has earned the Stonewall School Champion status. The new

status demonstrates our ongoing commitment to equality and diversity and to celebrating differences. Tolerance is a key British value and is highly valued here at Ruskin.

Stonewall is a charity that represents and campaigns for the equality of LGBT people, the charity's slogan is "Acceptance without exception".

## Macmillan Coffee Morning



Ruskin once again took part in the annual national Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 27th September. The morning, this year hosted in the new Sixth Form Pavilion restaurant, was well attended and raised over £200 for Macmillan. As always our student helpers were incredible and ensured the serving of refreshments, as well

as the running of the tombola, were both friendly and efficient. Thank you to everyone to supported by donating cakes and tombola prizes or attending the morning.

## New Titles on the Reading Room Shelves Thanks to Aaron's Generosity

Year 8 student Aaron W, has made Mrs Geeson's term! He has donated well over 150 books after his family had a clear out at home.



The books, all in perfect condition, have saved Mrs Geeson a huge amount of money and add some extra variety to the Reading Room bookshelves.

Aaron will receive 3 house points per book and his actions will put him well on the way to achieving his gold Ruskin Respect Award for Generosity. Aaron is pictured with just a few of the books he donated to the Reading Room. Thanks Aaron!

## Advanced Notice: Upcoming Charity Appeals

As we move towards Christmas we wanted to draw your attention to two of our important annual charity events:

- Rotary Shoebox Appeal - w/c 11th November

As usual students will work in Tutor Groups to collect items for a specific age child - ensuring they have a Christmas present this year.

- Annual Foodbank Collection - w/c 9th December

The academy will be collecting non-perishable food items (tins, packets etc) to support people during the festive period.

# 'Dia de Los Muertos': Year 7 Art

Year 7 Art students have been working on a 'Dead Heads' Art project. The project teaches students about Dia de Los Muertos (the Day of the Dead), a Mexican holiday celebrated from 31st October to 2nd November throughout Mexico and by people of Mexican heritage elsewhere in the world. The project explores colour, shape, pattern and imagery associated with the celebration, such as sugar skulls, as well as teaching clay hand-building techniques. Students had fun designing and creating their final clay skull masks, which they decorated with bright watercolours, glitter and sequins. Here are just a few of the many impressive final pieces - well done Year 7!



## Laura Samuel Puts Students Through Their Paces

On 30th September The Priory Ruskin Academy had the pleasure of a visit from Laura Samuel. Laura is a British Triple Jumper who won commonwealth silver in 2016. At the start of term Ruskin students in Year 7, 8 and 9 were tasked with raising money to help with the costs of training for some of the nations less recognised high performing athletes. Incredibly, in just two weeks, the three year groups raised an astonishing £891.31. As a thank you, Laura put our younger students through a high intensity circuit training session and delivered a presentation informing the students of what it takes to achieve your dreams. A big thank you to all those students and families who contributed in sponsorship and a special thanks

must go to the following students who managed to collect an award for raising £35 each; Bella S, Tia P, Molly P, Javan A, Luke K-S and Joe S. Also congratulations to Knight house who won the house competition collecting £332.



Trentham Gardens &  
Yorkshire Wildlife Park

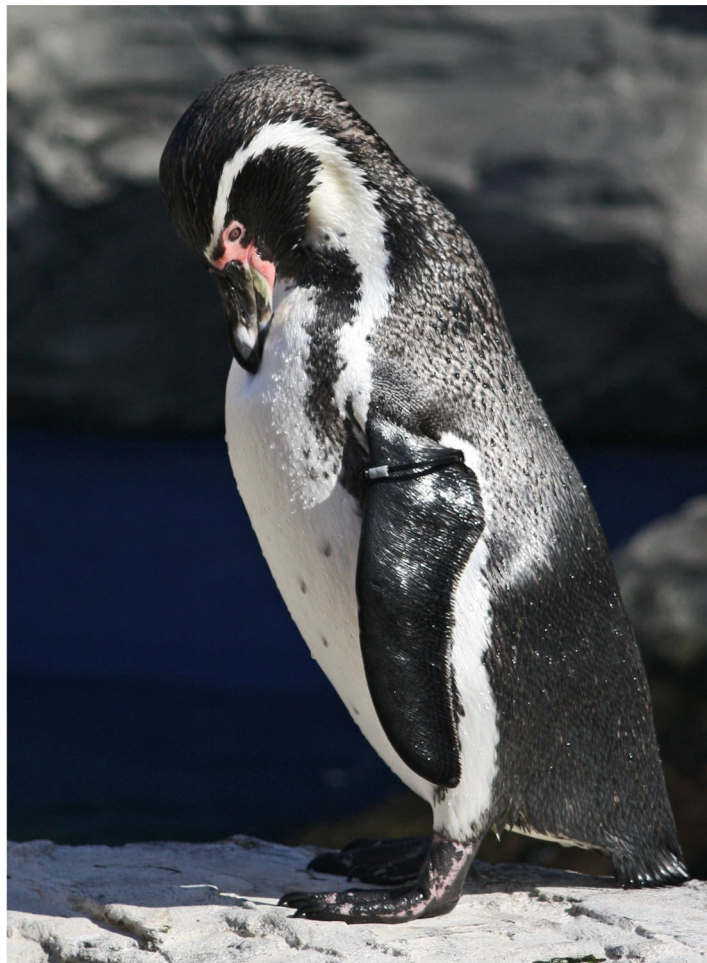


Photography students from years 9 - 13 visited 3 fabulous locations taking images to support work in their GCSE & A Level portfolios.





Hunstanton & Sea Life Centre



# Year 7 Enthralled by Haven Series Author

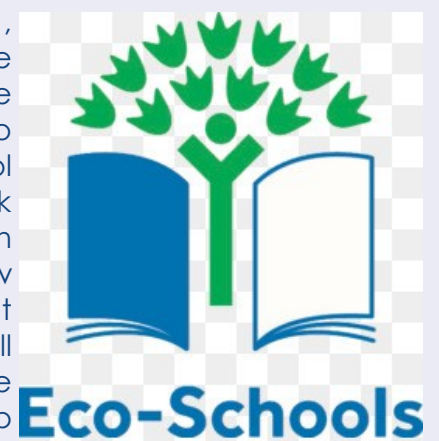


Year 7 Ruskin students enjoyed a fantastic morning on Monday listening to author Simon Lelic. Simon, author of the action packed Haven series, spoke passionately about his creative process; how his children are his best critics and make him take all the uncool jokes out, how his characters are all based on people he knows....and his skill at karate! Students were fascinated and had lots of very varied and insightful questions such as which characters are his favourites, who would he kill off and will his books ever become a film.

## Academy Sets Sights on Achieving Eco-Schools Green Flag Award

This term has seen the launch of Ruskin's bid to achieve the nationally recognised Eco-Schools Green Flag Award. The three-stage process encourages schools to combat their environmental footprint and improve their spaces for nature. This is a student run programme, with Year 10 students and Head Boy, Ollie R, requesting the academy start this project. So far, a good start has been made, with the first official meeting of the Ruskin Eco-Committee taking place this term. The Eco-Committee must contain at least one student from each year group and the response so far has been overwhelming, with 38 students from all years at the academy attending the first meeting. At this meeting, the students decided that our three focus areas to achieve this award should be to combat litter at the

academy, encourage biodiversity on site and to try to green the school grounds. Work shall begin on some of our new projects next term, and all students are welcome to help out with volunteering, so please keep an ear out for any opportunities. Parents are also welcome at selected events, so please look out for future eco-committee activities that could involve parental support.



## Sixth Form Law Students to take part in Bar Mock Trials

Law students in Years 12 and 13 will be taking part in the Bar Mock Trials in November. This is an interschool competition that gives students who are interested in the law the opportunity to play roles in a mock criminal trial and to develop skills in the process, including questioning, the analysis and evaluation of evidence and legal presentation. The heats will take place at Nottingham Crown Court and are overseen by members of the legal profession. One of the participants, Aleksandra Kecka, Year 13 said, 'I am really keen to study Law at university and this seems to be a great way to get experience of the criminal trial process. I am a little nervous

but I am sure it will be worth it'.

The students need to prepare for two cases and on the day will be selected to play either the prosecution or defence team for the cases. Students can take on a number of roles including barristers, witnesses, clerks and ushers. There are even opportunities for students to take on the role of court reporters or court artists.

We will update you on this story in the next newsletter which will be published at Christmas.



# Year 13 English Literature Trip to Haworth - Bronte Country



At the end of September Mrs Watkins and her Year 13 English Literature class went on a residential visit to Haworth, North Yorkshire. Attending the Bronte Parsonage Museum for a series of lectures about one of their set texts, 'Wuthering Heights', students also had an educational tour of the town and its church with one of the expert guides from the Bronte Trust. Despite the torrential rain which accompanied them for most of the day, with umbrellas and raincoats at the ready, students forged ahead and really enjoyed the experience.

Students relished the chance to discuss their set text with two extremely passionate and knowledgeable speakers, who are experts in the lives of the Bronte family and 'Wuthering Heights' in particular. The group attended talks about Emily Bronte and the context of the novel and another about critical responses to the text. It was extremely impressive to see our students engaging in insightful and thought-provoking debates, both during the talks and afterwards. It has certainly helped them to move forward in their own studies and has provided them with a lot of 'food for thought'.

In follow up discussions, one of the students reported, "I think that the talks were extremely useful and informative and have now provided me with additional resources to aid me with my A-Level English Literature. The talks, especially the Wuthering Heights talk, has given me ideas and concepts that I would not have thought of before and has allowed me to discover new ideas on my own as well."

A highlight of the trip was the Parsonage museum, which is within the actual house the Bronte family lived, and is set up to look as it was in the early 1800s. Students learnt that on Patrick Bronte's death, the original possessions in the House were sold at auction, as he had no heirs. The Trust is steadily seeking to regain the previous belongings from this period so that they can be reinstated in their 'rightful place' at the Parsonage. Everyone was amazed to hear how much the Trust recently paid to buy back a dining table for the Parsonage, but very appreciative of this as it is the table where the Bronte sisters wrote their epic works.

To the great amusement of staff, students decided to dress up in clothing typical to the period and, without prompting, entertained the other visitors to the museum by quoting sections of the text at one another. This amazing trip, full of fun but also extremely valuable, was well worth the hours spent travelling in the rain in the minibus. It was definitely a trip to remember.



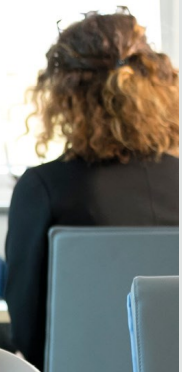
# UCAS update - 2018/19 and 2019/20

After another successful UCAS year, 65 students accepted their university places in summer 2019. Those that accepted their Russell Group offers are:

- Matt A, Industrial Economics, University of Nottingham
- Angelika M, Law, University of Manchester
- Katie W, Psychology, University of Sheffield
- Alistair W, Geography, University of Nottingham

We are also delighted to update you on former student, Muhammad A, who has accepted a distance learning with full scholarship at Stanford University, USA. He starts his studies in November on a BSc in Computer Science and will then complete a MSc in Financial Engineering.

Over 80 of the current Year 13 cohort are in the process of making their applications and this year we have 3 students that have applied to Cambridge University. Year 12 have started their university outlook with 2 sessions run by Leeds University on 'Learning Styles and Revision Skills' and 'Choosing a course and University and Making the most of Year 12'.



## SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019 6-8pm

Headteacher Address: 6pm & 7pm  
[www.prioryruskin.co.uk](http://www.prioryruskin.co.uk)

# Sports Digest Autumn 2019



Term 1 of 2019/20 has seen the Ruskin PE programme move to the sports of football, rugby, netball and basketball.

Last year was the most successful footballing year that Ruskin had experienced; girls' county finalists, boys' U15 district league winners, U16 county cup semi-finalists and U16 national cup quarter finalists. We are hoping for such success to continue and have made a very positive start. The academy first team are currently on a 100% win streak with a +11 goal difference after two games, in addition the B team have recorded their first ever win against Lincoln College. The U16 team, who last saw success in the district league competition, have continued to grow winning their first two games in the national competition cups. In girls' football we have entered local and national competitions across the age ranges and, with excellent numbers showing enthusiasm and commitment at training, we are hopeful that the teams can progress even further this year.

Rugby has seen fantastic development this year with Mr Sayle organising a new competition for rugby across schools playing at a

similar level. Ruskin students have risen to the challenge and have played more competitive rugby in term 1 than in any previous year. The results have been extremely positive across the board with Ruskin's Year 7, 8 and 9 teams currently topping the league tables. With one further round of fixtures to play Ruskin are well placed to bring home silver ware. The stand out team has been the Year 8s who have won all their games through dominance in contact and the breakdown area.

The netball teams have consistently shown great determination to progress over recent years. Attendance at training is exceptional and this has seen them off to a flying start with successes for all teams. Stand out results from the first term are: Year 8 winning against Walton, Year 9 winning against KGGs, Year 10 winning against KSHS, SWRA and Walton, and Year 11 beating SWRA. Furthermore, Ruskin have once again entered two teams into the Grantham Netball (adult) League. So far they have had two games, with Priory Lions beating Newark Shooters and Priory Tigers losing their opening game to established team Fenland Lynx. Adult league matches will continue

throughout the year and fixtures will resume in the spring term.

Ruskin's basketball squads have made significant progress from 2018 to 2019. At present, we are awaiting many of the seasons fixtures, but participation in Thursday night training has tripled putting us in a strong position. Ruskin's U14 squad has found the first success of the year beating a very talented King's team 12 – 10 over six minute quarters. This was followed up by draw with Carre's Grammar school: 10 – 10 after overtime. With many fixtures on the horizon, Ruskin's basketball journey is just beginning.

We have also had some individual sporting successes outside the academy which warrant great praise. Alister Hargraves competed for East Midlands in the National Junior U14 Wheelchair Basketball Championship. His team were undefeated throughout the two day competition and were overall winners.

Tia Plumbley is part of the England Team Kickboxing academy and recently competed in Manchester and Bradford. She did exceptionally well and came away with the Gold trophy for the girls under 13 years open weight category.



## KEY DIARY DATES FOR AUTUMN TERM 2019

Students Involved	Date	Event
All	28th October	All Students Return
Y12 & 13 Performing Arts	29th - 31st October	Performing Arts Residential Trip - London
All	w/c 4th November	Reading Week
Year 11	4th - 16th November	Year 11 Mock Exams
Year 10	4th & 5th November	MADD Performing Arts Trips x 2
All	7th November	PSHE Day
All	11th November	Remembrance Parade
All	w/c 11th November	Rotary Shoebox Appeal
Various	14th November	Awards Evening
Various	19th November	Shakespeare Festival Performance
Year 11	21st November	Sixth Form Open Evening
Year 7	27th November	Year 7 Concert
Year 9	28th November	Year 9 Parents' Evening
Open to all (booking required)	4th December	Wreath Making Charity Event
Various	5th December	Nutcracker Trip, Birmingham
H&SC Students	5th December	Avery Lodge/Fairview Farm Event
All	w/c 9th December	Annual Foodbank Collection
All Hepworth	9th December	Hepworth Christmas Meal
All Mackintosh	10th December	Mackintosh Christmas Meal
Various	12th December	Christmas Concert
Sixth Form	13th December	Sixth Form Christmas Meal
Various	13th December	Pantomime Trip
Year 7	16th December	Carol Service
All Knight	16th December	Knight Christmas Meal
All Morris	17th December	Morris Christmas Meal
Various	18th December	House Singing Competition
All	19th December	End of Term
All Staff	6th January	Staff Training Day
All Students	7th January	All Students Return